

## ABSTRACT

A filter assembly for removing particulate contaminants from a fluid, comprises a annular filter element having first and second ends, a filter housing containing the filter  
5 element and having first and second ends and a substantially cylindrical side wall defining an annular space between the side wall and the filter element, an end plate secured to the first end of the filter housing and having at least one fluid inlet therethrough adjacent to the first end of the filter element so that the fluid enters the filter housing through the at least one fluid inlet and flows into the annular space, and a directional fluid insert having at least one of fin  
10 disposed between the first end of the filter element and the end plate. The fins provided to cause the fluid entering the filter housing through the at least one fluid inlet to swirl around the filter element.